IDW®

#2 • CVR A

WILD BLUE YONDER

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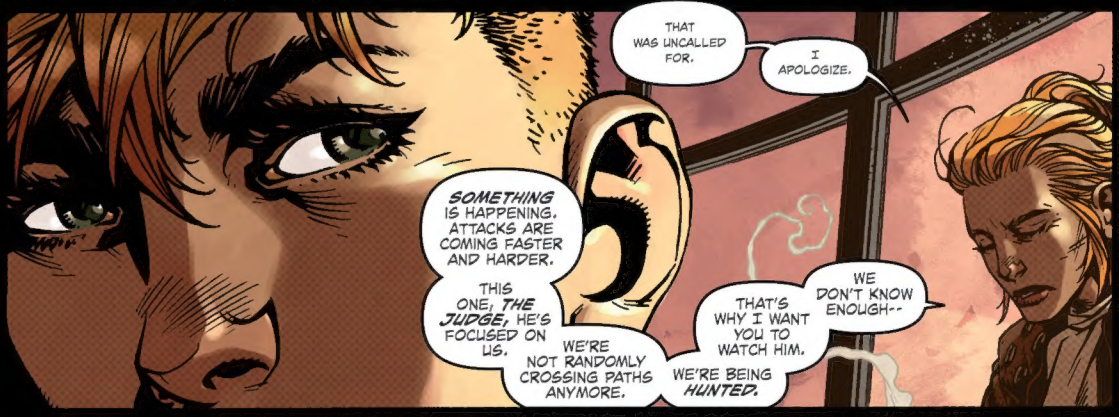
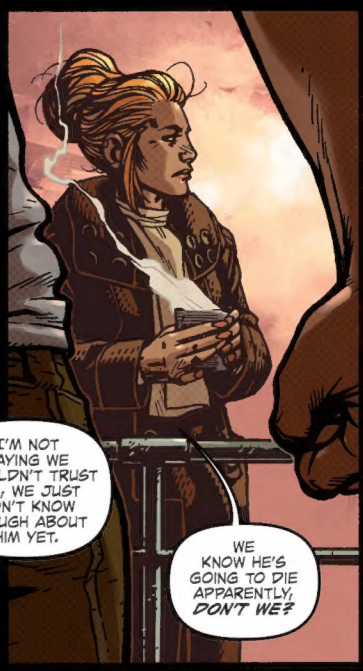
WE ARE CERTAINLY LIVING IN DANGEROUS TIMES.
NO FOOLING, MOM.
DON'T SASS ME, COLA.
YES, MA'AM.
I WANT YOU TO WATCH HIM CAREFULLY.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET CLOSE TO THIS ONE.
THIS ONE?
HE HAS A NAME.

HE'S GOING TO DIE, COLA.
THEY LIVE FOR A WHILE... BUT THEY ALL DIE EVENTUALLY.
IT'S A NOBLE SACRIFICE SURELY, BUT--
I CAN'T TELL.
IS THIS THE PEP TALK I SHOULD GIVE HIM BEFORE TRAINING HIM OR SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL AFTER WE HEAD INTO BATTLE TO DEFEND YOU AND THE REST OF THE DAWN?

COLA, ENOUGH!
THEY'D ALL LIVE A LOT LONGER IF YOU'D LISTEN TO ORDERS!


THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR.
I APOLOGIZE.
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING. ATTACKS ARE COMING FASTER AND HARDER.
THIS ONE, THE JUDGE, HE'S FOCUSED ON US.
WE'RE NOT RANDOMLY CROSSING PATHS ANYMORE.
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO WATCH HIM.
WE'RE BEING HUNTED.
WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH--

RIGHT.
GOT IT.
MAY I BE DISMISSED SO I CAN GO SPY ON THE ONE PERSON TRAINING TO FIGHT AND DIE FOR US?
I'M JUST ASKING YOU TO TREAD CAREFULLY.
FOR YOUR SAKE, AS WELL.


I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULDN'T TRUST HIM; WE JUST DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT HIM YET.
WE KNOW HE'S GOING TO DIE APPARENTLY, DON'T WE?

WHUMP

CHAPTER TWO

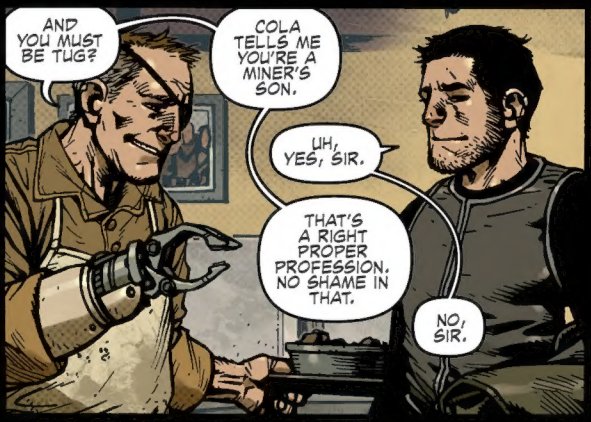
SHHH. THE KID, TEX, IS SLEEPING.
BIG DAY, THOUGH. GET YOUR GEAR ON. I THINK THOSE ARE ABOUT YOUR SIZE.
YOU COULD HAVE JUST SAID, "WAKE UP."
I DID. YOU WERE OUT LIKE A LIGHT.

SO, UM, WHAT EXACTLY AM I TRAINING FOR?
SCRAM?
COLA SAID I'D BE A GUN. DO I GET ONE?
I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TRAINING WITH SHOOTING BUT I'M SURE I CAN PICK IT UP.
YEAH, WE AREN'T THOSE TYPES OF GUNS.
TRUTH BE TOLD, WE'RE MORE LIKE BULLETS EXCEPT WE COME BACK. SOMETIMES.
REGARDLESS, GUN SOUNDS COOLER. I SAY WE STICK WITH THAT.

WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?
I MEAN, THERE ARE MORE OF YOU, RIGHT?
PLENTY OF OTHER RIGHTEOUS SOULS ON BOARD.
GUN TRAINING JUST STARTS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
WE GET FIRST DIBS ON FOOD. NICE PERK, RIGHT, BC?
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SCRAM.

AND HOW'S MY GIRL AND HER MUTT THIS MORNING?
GOOD, DAD.
RRRR.

CAREFUL, THAT'S HOT.
I'LL BE FINE.


AND YOU MUST BE TUG?
COLA TELLS ME YOU'RE A MINER'S SON.
UH, YES, SIR.
THAT'S A RIGHT PROPER PROFESSION. NO SHAME IN THAT.
NO, SIR.

AND CALL ME BC.
NO MORE "SIRS."
WE SHOULD BE SIR-ING FELLAS LIKE YOU AND SCRAM, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

EAT UP, CRITTER.
UM, SIR, YOU FORGOT MINE.
FEEDING YOU WOULD BE A WASTE OF FOOD TODAY, SON.
DOUBT YOU'D KEEP IT DOWN.
HE'S KIDDING, RIGHT?
NOPE.
>MUNCH<
WE HAVE A FEW RULES FOR NEW GUNS.
NO FOOD ON THE FIRST MORNING.
NO FULL ROCKET PACKS.
AND UH... NO MEET AND GREETS WITH THE ENTIRE CREW.
LOT LESS MESS THAT WAY.
WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
WE'VE HAD A FEW MISHAPS. PUKING IN THE SKY. SMACKED SKULLS.
>CHOMP<
WE LIKE TO HOLD OFF ON INTRODUCING YOU TO EVERYONE UNTIL WE'RE SURE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO...
...YOU KNOW...
...TSEEEE!
SEE YOU OUTSIDE.
MAKE SURE YOU TIE HIM TIGHT, SCRAM.
WE DON'T WANT ANY ACCIDENTS.
THIS ONE MIGHT TAKE A WHILE.

WUP!
WUP!
WUP!
WUP!
WUP!
WUP!
WUP!
WELCOME TO REFINERY H. THE INHABITANTS CALL IT HELLVILLE, DR. STEPHENS.
THIS IS THE LOWEST ALTITUDE FUEL PROVIDER IN MY FLEET.
OUR SECRET STASH.
IT'S LOVELY.
YOU MUST BE SO PROUD OF PUTTING THESE PEOPLE THROUGH THIS.
EVERYONE HAS A PURPOSE. NOT ALL CAN SOAR ABOVE IN THE CLOUDS.
THAT'S QUITE A PHILOSOPHY.
THESE CONDITIONS ARE GHASTLY.
THE AIR QUALITY ALONE IS ENOUGH TO KILL A PERSON WITH PROLONGED EXPOSURE.
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE IN THE MINES.
THE MINE AIR IS CLEANER. THE AIR SCRUBBERS KEEP IT SO.
HARD AS IT IS TO ACCEPT, THIS PLACE IS A NECESSITY. THESE PEOPLE KEEP OUR FLEET ALOFT.
THERE IS AN ORDER TO THINGS.
WITHOUT IT THERE WOULD BE CHAOS ON A MASS SCALE AND WE WOULD ALL DIE. INCLUDING YOU.
J1

IF THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO SURVIVE, PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE DEAD.
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
I AM NOT GOING TO CLEAN UP ANY MORE OF YOUR MESSES. I'D LIKE TO WAIT ON THE SHIP.
DR. STEPHENS, THE JUDGE'S ORDERS ARE NOT TO BE--

LODGE, THAT'S ENOUGH.
TAKE THE SOLDIERS AND SPEAK WITH OUR FACILITY SUPERVISOR.
GET AN UPDATE ON THEIR AVAILABLE RESOURCES.
YES, SIR.

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND. THIS IS OUR LAST STOP.
AFTER THIS WE ARE TRULY ON OUR OWN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

JUDGE! THE MINE IS--
EMPTY.
I KNOW.
RADIO THE FUEL BARGE AND TELL THEM TO BUTTON BACK UP.
THEN CALL FOR A TRANSPORT AND MORE TROOPS TO GATHER SUPPLIES.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE TAKING THEIR FOOD?
THEY'LL STARVE.
IT'S WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

WE CAN'T SQUEEZE ANOTHER DROP OUT OF HER, JUDGE.
WE'RE EAGER TO MOVE ONTO ANOTHER MINE, THOUGH.
WE'LL PACK UP AND--
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
WE WILL LEAVE YOU SOME NECESSITIES, AARON, BUT WE WON'T BE COMING BACK THIS WAY AGAIN.
IT IS BETTER WE TAKE THE FOOD AND SUPPLIES THAN LEAVE IT TO SOME MARAUDERS.
THEY WOULD BE FAR LESS KIND.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU'LL BE TAKING US WITH YOU, THOUGH, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT WAS PROMISED.
THE MEN WHO PROMISED THAT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES FOR THE LAST FEW GENERATIONS WERE LIARS.
WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

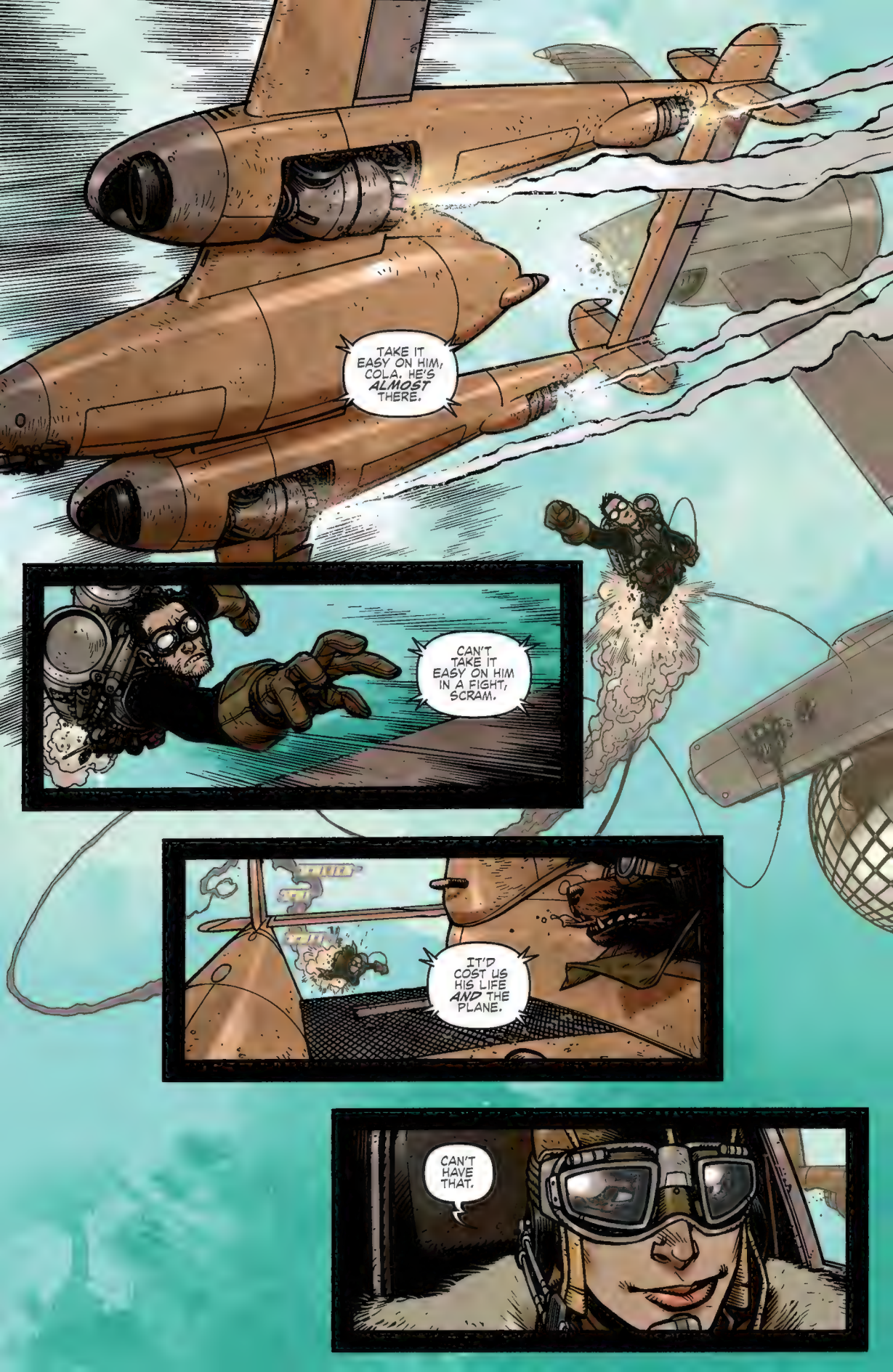
PEOPLE HAVE *DIED* IN THOSE MINES DOING THIS WORK TO MAKE *SURE* THEIR CHILDREN WOULD HAVE A BETTER LIFE.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL THEM NOW?
ALL OF THIS WAS FOR NOTHING?!

CHOK!
UUFF.

STOP IT!

THAT'S ENOUGH, FAITH.

STAND UP, AARON.
LET ME FINISH.
I WAS ABOUT TO ASSIGN YOU A GREAT TASK.
YOU'RE THEIR LEADER.
THIS IS YOUR GIFT TO THEM.
WHAT YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR.
IT'S WHY THEY CHOSE YOU OF ALL OTHERS TO LEAD BECAUSE YOU CAN MAKE THE HARD DECISIONS.
WE CAN TAKE THIRTEEN OF YOUR PEOPLE ALONG.
THE HEALTHIEST TEN MEN AND WOMEN WITH FIGHTING SPIRIT.
STRONG.
WILLFUL.
WE CAN ALSO TAKE THREE YOUNGSTERS WHO CAN FIX MACHINES BUT HAVE AN APTITUDE FOR MORE.
THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO.
THE REST OF YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN.
I... I'LL HAVE THEM READY WITHIN THE HOUR.
HOW MANY PEOPLE WORK HERE?
327.
I WANT YOU TO CHECK ALL OF THE CANDIDATES.
HE HAS A DAUGHTER HE MAY TRY TO SLIP IN.
SHE IS SICKLY AND--
I DON'T...
I CAN'T DO THIS.
YOU HAVE TO.
WE CANNOT HAVE ANY SICKNESS ABOARD THE FLEET.
IT COULD KILL US.
OKAY.
THANK YOU, SARAH.
I HOPED I COULD GET YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

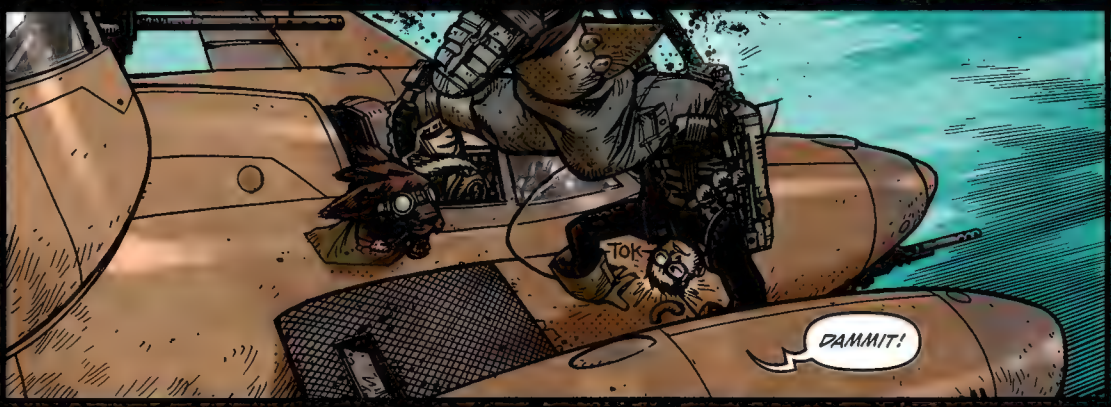

TAKE IT EASY ON HIM, COLA. HE'S ALMOST THERE.
CAN'T TAKE IT EASY ON HIM IN A FIGHT, SCRAM.
IT'D COST US HIS LIFE AND THE PLANE.
CAN'T HAVE THAT.

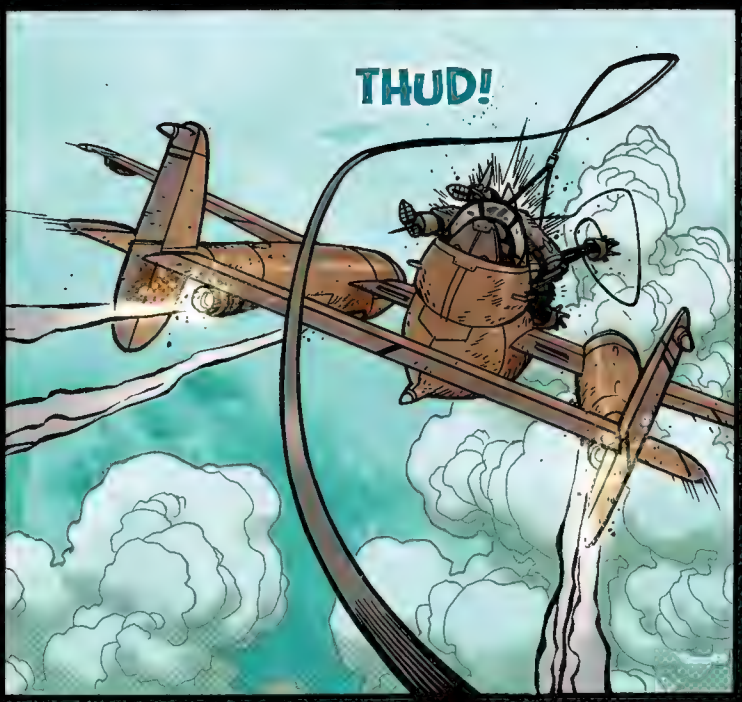
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
AHHH!
OOF.
TOONK!
whirrrrrrrrrr
TUG, M'MAN!
NOT BAD!
NOT BAD AT ALL!

NOT BAD?
I THINK I BROKE MY SHOULDER.
DOUBTFUL. YOU'D BE IN MORE PAIN THAN THAT.
NOW, LISTEN, YOU HAVE TO TIME IT A BIT SOONER.
LESS THROTTLE ON YOUR PACK--
--AND THINK MORE ABOUT YOUR ANGLE OF DESCENT AND GRABBING ON.
REMEMBER, YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO FEEL WHEN THIS CARTRIDGE RUNS LOW.
IT PUTTERS A BIT BEFORE GOING DEAD.
YOU FEEL THAT FIRST PUTTER, YOU BETTER SAVE WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT LEFT TO SKEDADDLE BACK TO COLA OR BRICK'S PLANE OR IF YOU'RE CLOSE ENOUGH, TO LAND ON THE DAWN.
THIS IS NUTS...
WHAT?
THAT'S THE RUB, HUH?
SHE PLAYS A BIT HARD TO GET FROM TIME TO TIME.
YOU'LL LEARN TO LOVE THAT ABOUT HER.
HOW CAN I GAUGE THE SPEED IF SHE KEEPS SPEEDING UP?
COLA'S FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE DAWN, ITS CREW, AND THEN HER PLANE.
THESE PLANES ARE THE DAWN'S BEST DEFENSE.
IT'S LIFEBLOOD. WITHOUT THEM, WE'RE DEAD IN THE SKY.
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU TIME IT RIGHT.
SHE HAS ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT.
GUYS LIKE YOU AN' ME, WE'RE EXPENDABLE.
GREAT. SO OUR JOB IS BASICALLY TO GO OUT THERE AND DIE.

NO. OUR JOB IS TO CAUSE HAVOC.
KEEP EVERYONE ON THIS BIG BEAST ALIVE.
AT ANY COST.
SHE'S A BEAUTY, HUH?
DO YOU WANT TO BORROW HER?
MY AXE.
I ALWAYS FIND IT EASIER TO DO IT WITH HER IN MY HANDS.
IT FOCUSES ME.
GETS ME IN THE MOOD.
WHAT?
UH, NO.
I'M GOOD RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
SCRAM, HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU TO GET THIS? HOW LONG DID YOU TRAIN?
TO BE A GUN? MY WHOLE LIFE.
I'VE WANTED THIS SINCE I COULD WALK.
REALLY?
HEY, SCRAM, I'M WASTING FUEL UP HERE. IS HE READY OR WHAT?
REST TIME IS OVER.
COLA'S COMING AGAIN.
ALREADY?

HERE, NOW PAY ATTENTION.
WATCH HOW I TIME THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HELPING!
WAAAAAIIIT!
FWOOOOSH!
I'VE GOT HER.


TOK
DAMMIT!


THUD!

OUCH.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

SORRY.
MISTIMED IT.
BUT TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE, YOU OVER-THROTTLED.
YOU THREW ME OFF THE DAWN.

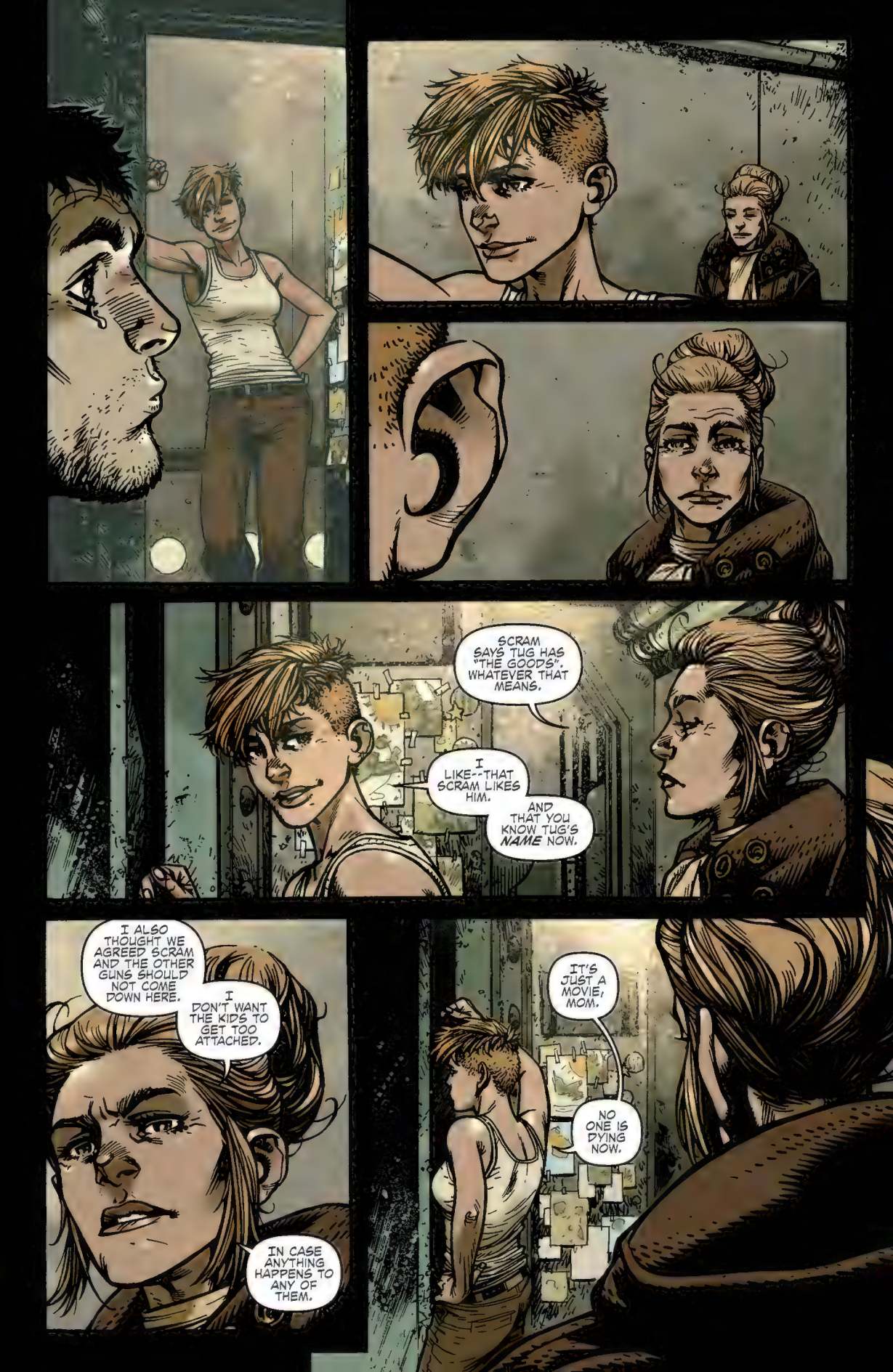
YEAH, WELL, AT LEAST YOU TOUCHED THE PLANE THAT TIME.

UUUUNN NHHHHHHH....
WHAT THE HELL HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?
GET UP.
IT'S MOVIE NIGHT.
SCRAM INVITED YOU.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I DON'T THINK I CAN HANDLE BEING TETHERED TO THE SHIP ANYMORE TODAY.
NO MORE TETHERING UNTIL TOMORROW.
NOW, SINCE IT'S YOUR FIRST ONE--
--AND YOU STINK ENOUGH TO MAKE PEOPLE LEAVE THE ROOM--
--YOU GET TO TAKE THE SHOWER TONIGHT.
THANKS. I THINK.
TAKE THIS HALL AND THEN YOUR FIRST LEFT.
IT'S NEAR THE MIDDLE. DON'T USE ALL OF THE WATER.
AND DON'T BE LONG--

--THE KIDS AND SCRAM ARE GETTING ANXIOUS.
HELLO?
IT'S ABOUT TIME, TUG. GET YOUR ASS IN HERE!
YEAH. GET YOUR ASS IN HERE!

BE KIND. THIS IS HIS FIRST MOVIE. NOW GIVE HIM ROOM.
SORRY, COLA.
SORRY, COLA.
NO. IT'S OK.
I'LL STAY BACK HERE.
SUIT YOUR-SELF.
WHAT MOVIE IS IT?
BAMBI.
OOOO. I LOVE THIS ONE.
WHAT'S A...
...BAMBI?

SIT OVER HERE.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IT BETTER.
OKAY.


SCRAM SAYS TUG HAS "THE GOODS". WHATEVER THAT MEANS.
I LIKE--THAT SCRAM LIKES HIM.
AND THAT YOU KNOW TUG'S *NAME* NOW.
I ALSO THOUGHT WE AGREED SCRAM AND THE OTHER GUNS SHOULD NOT COME DOWN HERE.
I DON'T WANT THE KIDS TO GET TOO ATTACHED.
IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ANY OF THEM.
IT'S JUST A MOVIE, MOM.
NO ONE IS DYING NOW.

CLICK

TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
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TAP! TAP! TAP!
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-BEEP- -BEEP-
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-BEEP- -BEEP- -BEEP-
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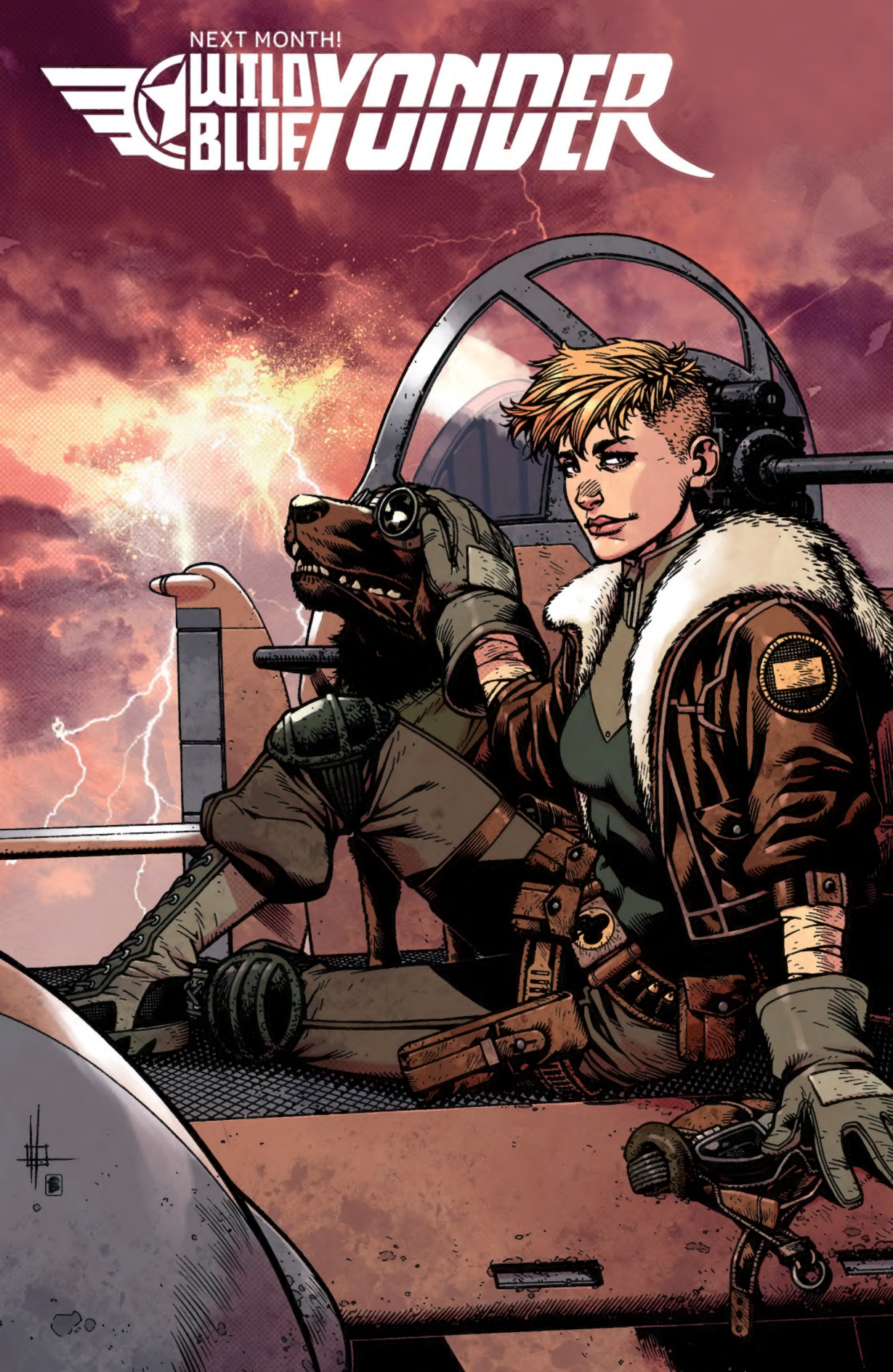
-BEEP-

S13 onboard.
Southwest Sector 9.
32 hours.
THE DAWN.
WE'VE FOUND HER.
END CHAPTER TWO


NEXT MONTH!
WILD BLUE YONDER

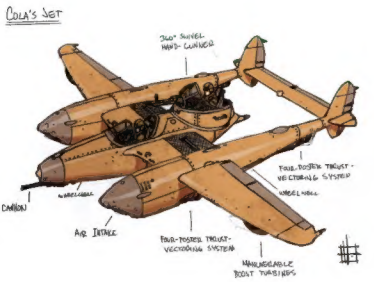
WILD BLUE YONDER

Welcome to the back matter of our second issue of Wild Blue Yonder. We hope you dug our sophomore effort and that we've inspired you to come back for issue 3 next month. It is one of our favorite issues and we can't wait for you to dig into it.
This month we thought we'd show you some pretty cool designs by Zach as well as share some info about the world of Wild Blue Yonder...

World Fact - The Pilot and their Gun

Pilots, like Cola, are responsible first and foremost for protecting their home, the Dawn. If their home in the sky is lost, their lives, and those of their families on board the giant air barges, are essentially over.

Secondly, the pilot must protect their plane. These planes, in these times of limited radar and dangerous radioactive clouds, have to be the eyes and ears of their commanders. Cola's Spitfire not only flies cover for its home in battle, but also scouts for supplies and searches for safe passage through the sky for the much slower and cumbersome Dawn.



Lastly, since ammo has become so scarce, Cola is responsible for transporting jet pack-wearing warriors, which the Dawn's crew has come to call Guns. These sky soldiers, like our Gun in training Tug and Scram, are the most efficient weapons of war in this vicious world. These men, and sometimes women, protect the Dawn in brutal hand-to-hand combat using axes, crowbars, knives, and pipes to keep their

homes safe. They are also responsible for boarding other craft and taking supplies, tearing other pursuing planes apart, and making sure their pilots and their planes make it home in one piece during battle.

The relationship between pilot and Gun is a symbiotic relationship. Since their jet pack bursts and fuel is limited, the Guns are transported into and out of battle by the pilots and their planes. The pilots have to be aware of where their Gun is at all times in order to make sure they can make it back to safety. In the intense dogfights and sky battles of Wild Blue Yonder, the plane and Gun must work in perfect unity or both will fall. It's as simple as that.

So there you have it. Lesson time is over. We won't have any back matter next month due to a whopping 27-page issue, filled with phenomenal Zach Howard art and our most intense sky action of the series, but if you've liked what you've seen so far, don't hesitate to contact us at contact@nobletransmission.com. We hope to address any questions or thoughts you might have about Cola, Tug, and the crew. Hopefully after the ending to this issue you have some concerns about the fate of our crew. We know we do.

Thanks for reading!
Mike, Zach, and Austin
Co-Founders of Noble Transmission
See what we're up to at Nobletransmission.com!

EMPIRE
K6